



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
IOWA TASK FORCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN**

Mission: Promoting innovative female responsive techniques through education and advocacy

MEETING MINUTES

GOOGLE MEET*

August 7, 2020

Present: Jennifer Tibbetts, Chair; Lori Rinehart; Ashley Artzer; Andrea P. Dencklau, LMSW; Jackie Ellenbecker; Stephanie Hernandez; Bethany Kohoutek;

Staff: Steve Michael; Kathy Nesteby; Dave Kuker; Scott Musel; Julie Rinker; Reeva Neighbors, SIYAC; Kayla Powell

Others: Ruth Frush; LaTasha DeLoach

Introductions/Announcements

Jennifer Tibbetts, Chair, welcomed those in attendance at 10:12 a.m. A quorum was not present. Members introduced themselves and provided information on their roles in working with girls and the juvenile justice system.

Approval of May 1 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

Thank you to Departing Members—Reeva Neighbors & Kristen Corey

Tibbetts thanked Kristen Corey, formerly with the Office on the Status of Women, for her service to the Task Force. Corey will remain an interested party. She has accepted a position with the Department of Public Health.

Tibbetts also thanked Reeva Neighbors, SIYAC Coordinator and AmeriCorps staff in CJJP. Her term ends on September 10. She is continuing her education and looking to continue her career working with youth. Neighbors was encouraged to remain part of the Task Force.

JJAC/CJJP/COVID Update

Steve Michael reported the following:

- Staff continue to work from home and periodically come into the office. Prior approval is required to limit the number of staff in the office.

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning

- Research staff are focusing on social justice issues, tracking the impact of COVID-19 on the justice system. Since mid-March, there has been a 40% drop in complaints compared to 2019 data. There has recently been a slight increase. Staff will continue to track these figures.
- A report is being prepared to address racial disparity in both the juvenile and adult systems through research, data, and recommendations.
- Juvenile side—all national conferences will be virtual. This will reduce travel expenditures for the current year.
- Grants—several applications were submitted, but we have not yet received notification of their status.
- JJAC Appointments—Staff are working with the Governor’s office to finalize appointments to the JJAC to comply with federal regulations and resolve some discrepancies.

Members discussed the following related to the current COVID-19 pandemic:

- Tibbetts noted concerns related to evictions/housing and unemployment in Linn County. There is an increased need for available services. There has been a push to remove individuals from supervision and facilities.
- Ashley Artzer reported that juvenile court staff have provided more contact via technology. While there have been challenges to coordinate some services, technology has made it easier to schedule some meetings and services. Transportation barriers are lessened through telehealth. Several youth have found employment, although employment documents have been a challenge. Other youth have done well utilizing online learning resources and adapting to change.
- Jackie Ellenbecker reported that there have been some issues with youth at home full time with parents. Youth in placement have missed family interaction due to visitation limits.
- Ruth Frush reported that the 1st Judicial District is conducting as many face-to-face meetings as possible. Substance abuse has increased in recent weeks. She voiced concerns about returning to school. State Court Administration is providing PPE to juvenile court staff.

DMC Subcommittee update

LaTasha DeLoach provided an update on the DMC Subcommittee. Wayne Ford, former DMC Chair, retired from the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council at the end of June. She has applied for JJAC membership and is serving to fill the gap as interim chair.

She is working to engage more on a routine basis with the ten designated communities. She would like to see more collaboration amongst the communities to share information on what is working.

The DMC Subcommittee is working to expand pre-charge diversion through a uniform, statewide approach. A handout is being prepared to provide this information and address the impact of technical violations and adult court waivers on disparity. When complete, the information will be shared with the Task Force to discuss joint efforts from a DMC/gender lens.

Tibbetts encouraged DeLoach to remain in contact with this Task Force and asked what could be done collaboratively regarding recent social justice events such as the Black Lives Matter movement.

DeLoach responded that the DMC Subcommittee has not met since May. Work will continue to focus on equity and justice.

She suggested holding a special joint meeting to identify how outside efforts apply to this work. Tibbetts will follow up to schedule a meeting to formulate thoughts, work collaboratively, and provide further discussion. They suggested holding an optional discussion, rather than a formal joint meeting.

Nestebly suggested arranging a meeting between the subcommittee chairs and staff to develop a strategy for the September Retreat and further discuss a joint meeting.

Michael reported that CJJP is developing reports on pre-charge diversion, technical assistance, and detention. The information will be shared with the Governor's FOCUS group. Last year, the FOCUS group reviewed adult re-entry; this year's focus is on disparity, law enforcement involvement, pre-textual stops, etc. The CJJP report will provide information from a juvenile justice standpoint.

Find Our Sisters

- Sheryl Dahm, Warden, & Lorie Woodard, Deputy Warden ICIW (tentative)
- Volunteer for next meeting

The above-referenced guests were unable to attend. Ellenbecker will contact them regarding participating at the November meeting.

Michael reported on a CJJP research project with the Urban Institute at the Mitchellville women's prison. The project centers on staff and prisoner culture/climate, improvements, and ways to replicate changes statewide. Due to COVID-19, initial interviews and focus groups will be virtual.

Tibbetts recommended interviewing former inmates who have exited the facility. Michael wasn't sure if this could be incorporated into the study. Nestebly will connect Tibbetts with research staff who can provide a better understanding on the scope of the project.

Healing Justice publication

- OJJDP grant

Nestebly reported that the OJJDP grant application ties to the Healing Justice publication. Grant approval would be near the end of September. She will poll members to schedule monthly workgroup meetings to complete the Healing Justice publication.

Final prep for JJAC planning retreat

- Current goals and objectives
- May joint meeting minutes

Tibbetts asked members to comment on goals and objectives to share at the September JJAC Retreat.

DeLoach would like continued focus on black girls and data by gender and race. She is considering a DMC workgroup of individuals who work with black girls to identify needs/how to make an impact.

There was consensus to continue focus on black girls in the juvenile justice system and to keep the four current goals.

- Other areas to consider—Stephanie Hernandez suggested partnering with similar adult groups to bridge the adult system. There was some discussion that few exist and most were no longer functional.

New Membership

- Girls Scouts
- Volunteers to contact 4-H, One Iowa, NAACP, others

Members discussed a variety of entities for potential membership. The following individuals will make contact with the entities listed:

- Hernandez—Girl Scouts
- Tibbetts—4-H, One Iowa, Public Health, NAACP
- Ellenbecker—DHS
- Neighbors—Evelyn K Davis Center

Nestey asked for other recommendations. The following were mentioned:

- G World, Iowa City
- University of Northern Iowa, Center for Trauma-Informed Care—Kohoutek
- Iowa State University—Kohoutek noted there is a trauma-informed courtyard at LSI
- Sharon Taylor—Tibbetts will contact
- Rural Iowa/western Iowa
- Past clients/system youth/past Girls' Court—Ashley Artzer
- SIYAC and AMP youth
- Job Corps—Ottumwa and Dennison—Kayla Powell will provide names and ask if they can present at the February meeting.

Nestey will follow up by email with a list of potential new members.

Old Business—There was no old business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
Iowa Department of Human Rights